Dumping of pulses

694. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nominal duty of 10 per cent on pulses and the free importability of pulses is being used for dumping pulses of good varieties in the Indian market; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The import of pulses is being allowed to supplement the supplies in the market in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of about 20 lakh tonnes. However, the Government is not aware about the dumping of pulses of good varieties in the Indian market in recent periods.

Increase in the prices of coal

695. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to increase the prices of coal;

(b) if so, the extent of increase contemplated in its prices;

(c) whether it is also a fact that production of coal has gone down by three per cent during the last year;

(d) whether it is also fact that there is accumulation of coal at pitheads;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof;

(f) the action proposed to boost the production of coal; and

(g) what action is being taken to protect the interests of poor domestic consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The average prices of coal produced by Coal india Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been increased by *12.8% and 11.8% respectively w.e.f.* 17.2.93.

(c) All India production of coal for the period April '92—Jan'93 at 182.88 M.T. is higher by 2.7% when compared to production during corresponding period last year. However, it is 2.52% below the target for this period.

(d) and (e) There has been some increase of stocks at pitheads because of seasonal factors and non-availability of transport.

(f) Steps taken to increase coal production during the current year inter-alia include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and making available inputs and infrastructural facilities in time.

(g) The price of soft coke for domestic consumers has been continued unchanged since 1982. Besides coal linkages have been allowed to units for production of briquettes and special smokeless fuel for domestic use.